

DIABETES IN DARLINGTON COUNTY

SC Department of Health and Environmental Control

◆ Diabetes Control Program ◆ Chronic Disease Epidemiology Branch
Diabetes Initiative of South Carolina

Diabetes mellitus, a chronic disease characterized by elevated blood sugar levels, is a significant contributor to morbidity and mortality in South Carolina and throughout the United States. Diabetes can cause debilitating and costly complications such as blindness, renal failure, lower extremity amputations, and cardiovascular disease. Much of the health and economic burden of diabetes can be averted through known prevention measures.

In 1998, 5.7 percent of South Carolina adults, equivalent to approximately 163,000 adults, reported having been diagnosed with diabetes. Diabetes was the sixth leading cause of death in South Carolina claiming 1,029 lives in 1997 and contributing to another 3,014 deaths. This report presents the burden of diabetes in Darlington county.

Behavioral Risk Factors

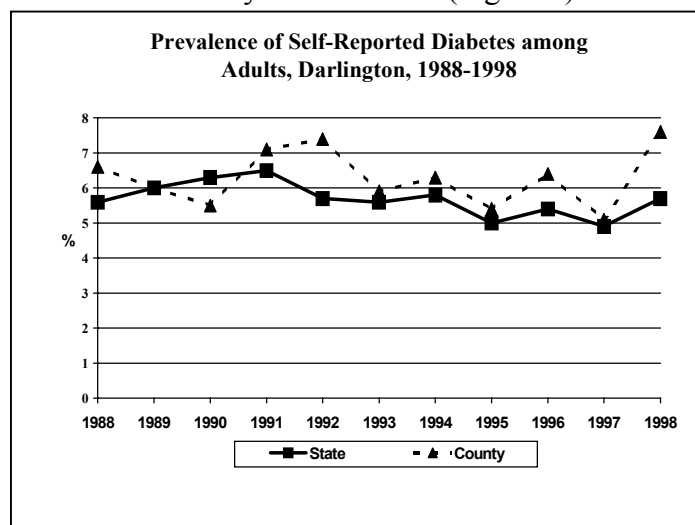
Table 1 displays the prevalence of major behavioral risk factors for diabetes and its complications in Darlington county and SC in 1998.

Table 1. Prevalence (%) of Behavioral Risk Factors for Diabetes

	Darlington County	SC
Overweight	32.6	
Current Smokers	24.7	
Physical Inactivity	69.6	61.6
Consuming fruits and vegetables less than 5-A-Day	78.2	24.4
High Cholesterol (1997)	22.8	24.4
Hypertension (1997)	34.7	26.7

Prevalence

In 1998, there were approximately 3,760 adults (7.6%) aged 18 and older living in Darlington county who have been told by a doctor some time in their life that they have diabetes (Figure 1).



Morbidity and Complications

In 1997, there were 208 hospital discharges with diabetes as the primary diagnosis among Darlington county residents. During the same year, there was an additional 1643 hospital discharges with diabetes-related condition. Compared to whites, African-Americans had more hospitalizations for diabetes as the primary diagnosis - 106 (51%), and fewer hospitalizations for diabetes as a related diagnosis - 657 (40%).

In 1997, hospital charges for hospitalizations of Darlington county residents having diabetes as primary diagnosis were up to \$2.2 million and \$23.8 million for diabetes as a related condition. The total length of hospital stay for diabetes as the primary

diagnosis was 1303 days.

Darlington county patients with diabetes who had diabetes-related complications in 1997 included:

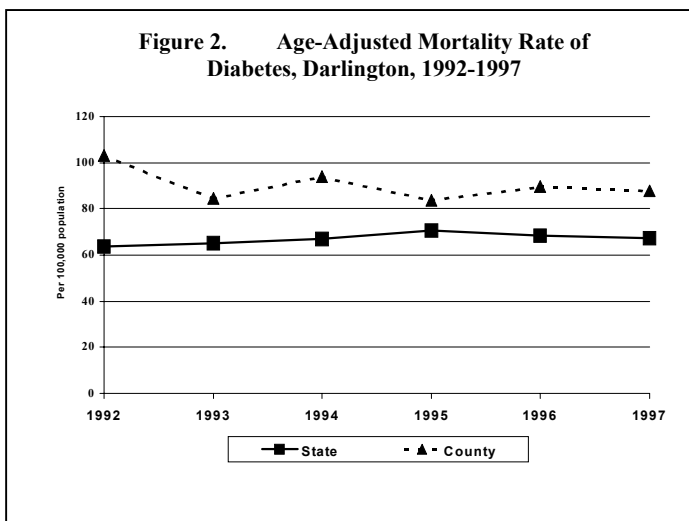
- 164 (9.0%) with renal manifestations;
- 51 (2.8%) with lower extremity amputations related to diabetes;
- 40 (2.2%) with diabetic ketoacidosis;
- 70 (3.8%) with renal failure;
- 60 (3.3%) with dialysis.

Adults with diabetes are at increased risk of developing cardiovascular disease. Out of 1,814 hospitalizations for patients with diabetes, 1,452 (80%) had cardiovascular diseases, and 251 (13.8%) had stroke.

In 1997, there were 231 emergency room (ER) visits for diabetes as the primary diagnosis, among which 145 (62%) were for African-American patients. In addition, there were 393 ER visits for diabetes as a related condition. Total ER charges for diabetes as the primary diagnosis was \$136,770.

Mortality

In 1997, diabetes was listed as the underlying cause of death for 39 residents of Darlington county. This is an age-standardized mortality rate of 48.4 per 100,000 population, higher than the state average of 39.2 per 100,000 population (Figure 2). Diabetes was listed as a contributing cause in 70 deaths in Darlington county; a standardized mortality rate of 87.8 per 100,000 population.



A total of 436 potential years of life were lost in 1997 because people died prematurely from diabetes. Diabetes mortality in Darlington county follows the national pattern of diabetic mortality that African-Americans have higher mortality rates than whites. African-American men had the highest standardized mortality (168.3 per 100,000 population) among all race-sex groups.

Darlington County Resources

Kimberly Alton, RD
Byerly Hospital
413 East Carolina Avenue
Hartsville, SC 29550

Buquilla Ervin
Pee Dee Minority Health Disease Prevention and Health Education
231 South Warley Street
Florence, SC 29501
(843) 629-7753

Marilyn Henderson
Director
Joslin Diabetes Center
McLeod Regional Medical Center
PO Box 10051
Florence, SC 29501
(843) 667-2000

